

POINT LOMA AND ITS MYSTERIES

BY IRA E. BENNETT.

San Diego, Cal., Oct. 27.

DELIGHTFUL air of mystery broods over the "institution" on Point Loma, over which Mrs. Katharine Tingley rules, and which has attracted wide attention since the Hon. Lyman J. Gage, Revival of the Lost Mysteries of Antiquity, took up his residence there. The place is called the International Brotherhood, the Raja Yoga School, the school for Lost Mystics of Antiquity, the Theosophical headquarters, and by a half dozen other names. There is a baffling story connected with the very site, and ever since the institution was established the public curiosity regarding it has been keen and unsatisfied.

The story of Catherine Tingley has been recounted often. It has been said that she was an adept in clairvoyance and similar mysterious practices before she blossomed into the "Purple Motherhood" of Point Loma. She succeeded William Q. Judge as the head of the Theosophical Society, founded by Mme. Blavatsky. In this succession, as in all other moves made by the leaders of the cult, there is enough secrecy to give spice to the proceedings. Mrs. Tingley, at any rate, is acknowledged by her followers to be absolute in authority, with power to appoint her successor. Her rule is for life—this life. Whether she will exercise supervision over the Point Loma institution after translation to another sphere of activity, is still another secret.

Soon after Mrs. Tingley's accession to the Theosophical throne the society was enriched by the contributions of several rich men in the east. Some of them dropped their usual labors and joined the colony then forming, while others performed work for the society while remaining in business. Hints were given of enormous accretions of wealth from sources not divulged.

Agents of the society appeared about ten years ago in San Diego and quietly acquired the lands on Point Loma, now occupied by the "institutions." The word went out that millions were to be expended in improvements. Several names of national reputation were circulated as behind the movement. From somewhere, somehow, the people of San Diego learned, or thought they learned, that Point Loma was selected at the instance of mahatmas in the Orient, the object being to facilitate communication between the Pacific Coast and the Orient by mysterious means unknown to the world. Telepathy, ether waves, wireless telegraphy, soul vibrations, and a few other methods were suggested. The Theosophists threw no light on the subject, and permitted the common folk to think what they pleased.

In due time, after further rumors had gained circulation, the leaders arrived in San Diego to lay the corner-stone of the "School for the Revival of the Lost Mysteries of Antiquity." A splendid, tantalizing title it was. The San Diegans were recovering from the effects of another educational stunt, known as the boom, which had inflated the place to the bursting point of ambition, and then punctured itself with hideous combustion and bankruptcy. They were badly crippled, but they recovered their spirits quickly, for there is something in the shimmering air of this place which disposes toward grandeur and credulity. It is as good as Tarascon, the home of the great Tartarin, where the very air enlarges every image. The San Diego people did not linger long in welcoming the School for the Revival, &c.

On a pleasant eminence on the Point, commanding an unobstructed view toward the Orient, the corner-stone was laid. If anybody thinks there was any omission of ceremony, he is mistaken. There was a procession, with Mrs. Tingley at the head, attired in symbolic robes. Selections were read from the sacred writings of India, Persia, and Japan. Corn, wine and oil were laid upon the stone with obscure incantations. Finally, after a series of esoteric observations by distinguished unknown visitors, the cognoscenti gathered about the stone and repeated, with bated breath, the wonderful word that is always spelled in capitals by the elect—the word "OM!"

This brief but potent conjunction of letters was said at the time to be the word used by Joshua and his host outside of Jericho. After the proper application of shouts, as the sacred writings inform us, the walls fell. The Point Loma true believers say that this astonishing effect was accomplished through the power of rhythm, exactly as a little dog trotting over a bridge starts a vibration that strains the structure. At the laying of the corner-stone the word OM was uttered rhythmically, but the faithful did not care to exert their full power, or they were not as skillful as Joshua's host, for nothing was shattered. But it was a mighty impressive

ceremony, and the multitude from San Diego returned home in great exultation. They could see vast domes and airy minarets rising on Point Loma as clearly as they saw, years before, a harbor crowded with masts and a city more populous than London.

The corner-stone of the School for the Revival, &c., lies where it was laid. The domes and minarets are still obscured by the mists of the future.

The true believers erected a hotel near the site of the School for the Revival, &c. It was to accommodate noted visitors the Theosophical lights from abroad. It has been changed, however to a school—the Raja Yoga. Its dome is of glass, which glitters of mornings and sundowns. There are other buildings, such as refectories, dormitories, bungalows, a music hall, and so on. There is no church, and no need of one.

After the Theosophists had started their institution at Point Loma, a change was effected in the organization whereby the word "Theosophist" was placed in the background and the name "Universal Brotherhood" was made prominent. The education of the children was emphasized, and there was little or no talk of the revival of the ancient mysteries. This change was attributed to the good sense of Mrs. Tingley, who is unquestionably a woman of remarkable gifts. Money came in from unknown sources, and the institution thrived.

It is interesting to visit Point Loma and see the place. It comprises perhaps 100 acres of cultivated land, and is enclosed by a fence. Big gates of Egyptian khaki uniform, trim as a soldier, sits in a little booth and takes the ticket of the hill ready to pilot the visitor. Another true believer stands at the top of the hill ready to pilot the visitor through the grounds. All the men are attired in khaki, of stuff resembling it, with a smart cap and yellow leggings. The women affect loose, but neat gowns, white as snow. The children have a distinctive dress also, the little girls wearing pretty cream colored frocks and the boys a knickerbocker outfit.

The sentinel who met us at the top of the hill, near the main building, was no ordinary picket. He wore eyeglasses, and looked awfully through them. His clothing was immaculate. He addressed us courteously, offering to show us through the grounds. A few moments' conversation revealed that he had formerly lived in Georgia, where he was interested in cotton manufacturing. He had the air of a man of wealth. His brother, he said, was a lieutenant in the Philippines.

"The Universal Brotherhood Institution is entirely misunderstood," said this khaki-clad gentleman. "We have to smile sometimes when we hear the stories they tell of us. They hint of immortality. Do you think I would bring my wife and children to an immoral place? They say we are under the domination of autocratic rulers, who take our money and make us work for our board and lodging. It is absurd. I have my own home here, and I can withdraw at any moment I choose. I handle my financial affairs exactly as any other man does, through my bank. You speak of freedom on the outside. Why, this is the freest, most independent place I know of. One here is absolutely free, and is enabled to live for something besides mere money-making."

"What is the object of living together in this community?" I asked. "Well," replied the guide, "there are people in this world who believe that the be-all and end-all of this life is not in piling up money. They believe that selfishness is not the true rule of life. They think that brotherhood and reciprocal help should guide men, and that if the world could be brought to see that all men are brothers, whatever their color, race, or residence, humanity would begin to rise. Now, we are here because we believe in these things. Do you see that door?"

He pointed to a beautifully carved double door at the entrance to the hall of music. It is a massive work, executed with patient skill, and well worthy a place in any abode of art.

"That door was carved by a member of this community," said the guide. "He is an Englishman. He did not have to do that work, and he was not paid for it. He merely wanted to give some evidence of his desire to help. So he turned his genius to carving and produced that work of art."

"We have our own printing plant here and our own engraving establishment. You can see the quality of the work in the periodicals and pamphlets issued by the society. We have our own refectories, where those of us live who do not care to keep servants. It happens that one of our members is a lady who has mastered the science of cookery,

(Concluded on Page 7.)

CITY NOTICES.

REGISTRATION NOTICE.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, THAT the registration books of the city of Astoria, for the primary nominating election to be held in this city on Monday, the 12th day of November, 1906, will be opened at the Auditor's office in the city hall, on Tuesday, the 23rd day of October, 1906, and will close for said primary election on the 8th day of November, 1906, at the hour of four o'clock p. m., said registration books will again be opened on Friday, the 16th day of November, 1906, for the general election, to be held in this city on Wednesday, the 12th day of December, 1906, and will close on Friday, the 7th day of December 1906, at four o'clock p. m. All persons must register in order to be entitled to vote.

OLOF ANDERSON,

Auditor and Police Judge of the City of Astoria, Dated Astoria, Oregon, October 19, 1906. 10-19-10t

NOTICE OF MEETING OF BOARD OF EQUALIZATION.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, THAT special assessment number 130, made for the purpose of defraying the costs and expenses of improving 11th street street, from the North line of Harrison avenue to the North line of Kensington avenue, has been filed with the Auditor and Police Judge, and numbered special assessment roll number 130, and that the committee on streets and public ways has been appointed a committee of the council to sit with the board of assessors to examine, correct and equalize the same, and that Thursday, the first day of November, A. D. 1906, at the hour of 2 o'clock p. m., in the council chambers in the city hall, has been fixed as the time and place of the meeting of said board of equalization. All objections to said assessment must be presented in writing.

OLOF ANDERSON,

Auditor and Police Judge of the City of Astoria, Dated Astoria, October 18, 1906. 10-18-10t

NOTICE OF MEETING OF BOARD OF EQUALIZATION.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, THAT special assessment number 131, made for the purpose of defraying the costs and expenses of improving Bond street from the west line of 6th street to the west line of McClure's Astoria, has been filed with the Auditor and Police Judge and numbered special assessment roll number 131, and that the committee on streets and public ways has been appointed a committee of the council to sit with the board of assessors to examine, correct and equalize the same, and that Thursday, the first day of November, A. D. 1906, at the hour of 2 o'clock p. m., in the council chambers in the city hall, has been fixed as the time and place of the meeting of said board of equalization. All objections to said assessment must be presented in writing.

OLOF ANDERSON,

Auditor and Police Judge of the City of Astoria, Dated Astoria, October 18, 1906. 10-18-10t

NOTICE OF MEETING OF BOARD OF EQUALIZATION.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, THAT special assessment number 129, made for the purpose of defraying the costs and expenses of improving 7th street from the South line of Niagara Avenue to the North line of Bay Avenue, has been filed with the Auditor and Police Judge and numbered special assessment roll number 129, and that the committee on streets and public ways has been appointed a committee of the council to sit with the board of assessors to examine, correct and equalize the same, and that Thursday, the first day of November, A. D. 1906, at the hour of 2 o'clock p. m., in the council chambers in the city hall, has been fixed as the time and place of the meeting of said board of equalization. All objections to said assessment must be presented in writing.

OLOF ANDERSON,

Auditor and Police Judge of the City of Astoria, Dated Astoria, October 18, 1906. 10-18-10t

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Mothers need have no hesitancy in continuing to give Chamberlain's Cough Remedy to their little ones, as it contains absolutely nothing injurious. This remedy is not only perfectly safe to give to small children, but is a medicine of great worth and merit. It has a world wide reputation for its cures of coughs, colds and croup and can always be relied upon. For sale by Frank Hart and leading druggists.

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WANTED—A WET NURSE; APPLY D. 30 Astorian.

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POSITION WANTED—YOUNG MAN wants position; any kind of work, day or night. Address N. Astorian. 10-26-3t

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CITY NOTICES.

NOTICE.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, THAT the Common Council of the City of Astoria has declared its determination and intention to establish the grade on Irving Avenue from the West line of 8th street to the West line of 9th street, so that the grade when so established will be at the following elevation above the base of grades as established by Ordinance No. 71 of the City of Astoria, to-wit:

At the crossing of Irving Avenue and 8th street at 187.5 feet above the base of grades on the North side, and 190.5 feet above the base of grades on the South side.

At the crossing of Irving Avenue and 9th street at 167 feet above the base of grades on the North side and 170 feet above the base of grades on the South side and between said points so designated the street shall be on a straight and even slope.

OLOF ANDERSON,

Auditor and Police Judge of the City of Astoria, 10-28-11t

NOTICE OF MEETING OF BOARD OF EQUALIZATION.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, THAT special assessment number 129, made for the purpose of defraying the costs and expenses of improving 7th street from the South line of Niagara Avenue to the North line of Bay Avenue, has been filed with the Auditor and Police Judge and numbered special assessment roll number 129, and that the committee on streets and public ways has been appointed a committee of the council to sit with the board of assessors to examine, correct and equalize the same, and that Thursday, the first day of November, A. D. 1906, at the hour of 2 o'clock p. m., in the council chambers in the city hall, has been fixed as the time and place of the meeting of said board of equalization. All objections to said assessment must be presented in writing.

OLOF ANDERSON,

Auditor and Police Judge of the City of Astoria, Dated Astoria, October 18, 1906. 10-18-10t

PROPOSALS.

PROPOSALS FOR BEEF AND MUTTON. Vancouver Barracks, Wn., Oct. 2, 1906—Seals proposals for furnishing and delivering fresh beef and mutton for six months, beginning Jan. 1, 1907, will be received here and at offices of commissaries at Fort Stevens, Ore., Boise Barracks, Ida., Forts Casey, Columbia, Flager, Lawton, Vancouver Barracks, Walla Walla, Ward, Worden, and Wright, Wash., until 10 a. m., Nov. 1, 1906, and then opened. Envelopes containing proposals should be endorsed, "Proposals for fresh beef and mutton, to be opened Nov. 1, 1906," and addressed to commissary of post to be supplied, or to Lt. Col. George B. Davis, Chief Com'y.

PROFESSIONAL CARDS.

ATTORNEYS AT LAW.

CHAS. H. ABERCROMBIE, Attorney-at-Law. General Practitioner, Notary Public. Rooms 35-36—Phone Main 2951. Page Block, Cor. Commercial & 12th St.

F. D. WINTON, Attorney-at-Law.

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